

October 15, 1971

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Dear Bill:

I was happy, as always, to hear from you and about your work. I agree with the points you made and I know the spirit in which you made them.

I would like to emphasize what we stated in our paper-- that our recognition of RNA polymerase involvement came from enzymology. When I first mentioned this idea to Dale, he was excited by it and immediately told me of your work. When we wrote ~~the~~ short paper, it seemed inappropriate to generalize and expand when we had not yet established the true function of RNA polymerase in M13 replication. In fact, we still don't know for certain that there is a priming fragment in the initiation event, and if so, how long it persists. I think we are getting closer to knowing because we've purified the extracts significantly.

I want to thank you for sending me your reprints. I was stimulated to read and understand your work better. From what you have done and the indications from Lark and others, it does seem rather likely that several DNA initiations may share an RNA involvement.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

Arthur Kornberg